WHO WE ARE

The Massachusetts State Laboratory Institute Tuberculosis Laboratory (MSLI) was first nominated to become a Supranational Laboratory in 1998. Under the continuing direction of Alexander Sloutsky, PhD, the MSLI was recognized for its support to multiple international laboratory strengthening projects in Peru, Russia, and Vietnam. In 2007, with the advent of the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI), Dr. Sloutsky sought broader support and commitment for the mission of the SRL. The MSLI agreed and entered into a long-term partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). The laboratory was renamed the Massachusetts Supranational Reference Laboratory (MSRL).

Managed and operated by UMMS’ Center for Health Policy and Research, the MSRL is committed to providing needed technical assistance and quality assurance activities in support of international laboratory strengthening. Through the UMMS partnership, the laboratory has gained access to expanded laboratory and administrative facilities, dedicated staffing and infrastructure to support basic, clinical, and operational research while maintaining strong connectivity to the State TB Laboratory.

Today, the MSRL is actively engaged in supporting the development of TB laboratory services in the Caribbean and Haiti. Through assessment, training, and implementation of quality control methods, the MSRL is working to advance capacity and proficiency in the region. Following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, the MSRL is actively engaged in re-establishing the laboratory network, development of surveillance for drug resistance, and provision of interim Culture and Drug Susceptibility Testing.

CURRENT CAPACITY

- Provide Administrative, Technical, and Training Resources to support:
  - Evaluation of laboratory systems in support of network capacity building
  - Develop/implement national strategic plans for laboratory strengthening
  - Provision of long term technical, operational, and managerial laboratory assistance
  - Design /implement quality assurance systems in accordance with international standards
  - Design and implementation of TB surveillance
- Interim and long-term diagnostic capacity: Culture, DST (1st/2nd), molecular methods, genotyping, and genetic sequencing
- Basic, clinical, and operational research
**WHAT WE’VE DONE**

The MSRL has participated in the development of laboratory infrastructure and provision of interim laboratory support services in Haiti, Peru, Russia (Tomsk) for over ten years.

**WHAT WE’RE DOING NOW**

The MSRL is currently assigned (PAHO) to provide support in the Caribbean Region (22 Countries supported by CAREC), Haiti, and Peru.

Our current projects include:

- Development of a national infrastructure for the diagnosis and surveillance of drug resistant *M. tuberculosis* in Haiti, including:
  - External Quality Assessment: Implementation of proficiency panel testing for AFB smear microscopy
  - Development of Surveillance for DR.
  - Submittal of TB REACH proposal for improved case detection.
  - Interim Culture & DST support following the earthquake of January 12, 2010.
- Proficiency Testing in Peru
- QC for upcoming surveillance in Peru
- Interim diagnostic support in the Caribbean Region through a partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
  - Evaluation and development of national laboratories in the Caribbean region.

**LANGUAGE**

Proficiency in: French, Creole, Russian, Thai, and English

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

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